

BASIC



have because they were put into orbits higher than those of the space shuttle, the only vehicle that could bring them back. Shuttle crews have done satellite repair—dangerous work requiring tools custom-designed for each crippled craft—but it's unlikely that NASA would want them to lasso these other objects, assuming they could reach them, merely for the sake of conservancy. Still, space preservationists can only be frustrated to think of the empty holds with which most shuttle orbiters return home.

Just in case the United States ever sends astronauts to Mars, the Smithsonian has taken transfer of the title to *Viking I*, which mapped that planet's surface 20 years ago: It hopes to see it brought back. More likely are retrievals of the *Ranger* probes and *Saturn* boosters that were deliberately crashed into the moon. But will we return even there? The most depressingly ironic thing about the manned space program, at least to enthusiasts, is that it seems to have *too much* history—more past than future. The Cosmosphere's current "Space Memento" hallway has a backlit panel showing every manned flight from Shepard's through the fourth shuttle mission in 1982. After STS (Space Transportation System)-4, the shuttle was deemed to be no longer in flight test but "operational." The 14 years since have brought one catastrophe and a great deal of boredom, and according to Ary, the routine nature of the missions has made NASA even less preservation conscious than it was during the great space race of the '60s.

**Memorabilia
from the
Apollo
program
on display
at the
Cosmosphere.**

Even so, American space history has been more coherently collected than that of our erstwhile Soviet rival. In 1993 and 1996, Sotheby's held two enormous auctions of "Russian Space History"—everything from a Vostok capsule to one of Yuri Gagarin's medals to the fragment of flange that fell off *Sputnik 1* during launch. An amazing array of items

came to the New York showroom from private hands—individual cosmonauts' and engineers'—in that former bastion of state ownership. American astronauts and technicians wouldn't have dared make off with government property on the same scale. "For the Russian consignors to the space sale," the first Sotheby's catalog tactfully put it, "preservation and recognition were important issues. These artifacts represented the best of their culture and their country's achievements and should be made known to and shared with the world." The Soviet Union's constitutional and economic collapse had rather more to do with it: The consignors needed money, and now they could get it. By now, a Russian lunar rover and much else has come to Kansas, and the Cosmosphere promises visitors that once its expansion is finished, its new museum dedicated to the history of the space race will be displaying "the largest collection of Soviet space artifacts in the western world."

Those first, frantically competitive spacemen didn't entirely forgo gestures toward history. Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins carried to the moon a piece of propeller from the Wright Brothers' *Kitty Hawk*, and two years later *Apollo 15* astronaut David Scott placed on the lunar surface a plaque with the names of 14 men—among them the three cosmonauts of *Soyuz 11*—who had died during the lunar competition. To Americans, no three names meant more than those of Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger Chaffee, who died on the ground in the fire that broke out in their *Apollo 1* command module in January 1967.

After the investigation, NASA never knew what to do with the wreck, which to this day remains in a storage container at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. The space agency has several times begun making plans to destroy it, but Max Ary and others have lobbied for its preservation. He is in touch with surviving members of the crew's families and currently has a plan before the Smithsonian that addresses the issues of saving and displaying the charred craft. "Enough time has passed," he says, to exhibit it as both a memorial and as evidence of how correcting the mistakes that caused the fire allowed the United States to get its astronauts safely to the moon only 30 months later. Over at Space Works, Greg Buckingham tells a visitor, almost reverently, that after helping restore *Apollo 13*, that averted catastrophe, he would be proudest to work on *Apollo 1*.

Alan Bean, who brought the *Surveyor* scoop back to Earth (and who deliberately left his rookie-astronaut's pin where he'd found the craft) today perpetuates his journey in a series of artworks made with paint into which he is said to mix grains of the lunar dust he brought home on his gloves. He is one of just a dozen extraterrestrials the race has produced so far. Their number may never grow beyond 12, and two of them have already died. It should be noted that one of those, *Apollo 15*'s James Irwin, spent a portion of his later years on Mount Ararat, looking for Noah's Ark. **P**

Thomas Mallon's books include the novel Aurora 7 and Rockets and Rodeos, a collection of essays.



BRICK

**How a modest hotel
in a small New Mexico
town has become home
and studio to the artist
Judy Chicago.**

by **ALEC
WILKINSON**

photography by
DONALD WOODMAN

One afternoon in the fall of 1988, Judy Chicago, the artist, and her husband, Donald Woodman, a photographer, arrived for the first time in Belen, N.M., a lonesome, high desert town a hundred miles south of Santa Fe. On a side street by the railroad tracks ►

The hotel, built in 1907 in Belen, N.M., by a former governess, served traveling salesmen and railroad workers.

they saw two old hotels. Each hotel had been built of brick in the early part of the century, each was two stories tall, and each was vacant. At the time, Chicago and Woodman were living in a rented house in Santa Fe, collaborating on an elaborate narrative piece involving the Holocaust. They expected to finish in 1990, and when the project was done, they wanted to move into a place of their own.

After working as a draftsman in an architect's office in New York and then in Massachusetts as an assistant to the fine art photographer Minor White, Woodman had come to New Mexico in the early '70s to make photographs. Chicago had come from northern California in the early '80s to paint without the distractions involved in being one of America's most controversial and provocative artists. (They met and married in 1985.) Both wanted a quieter, less expensive town than Santa Fe to live in and premises large enough for each of them to have room to work. They began following the banks of the Rio Grande, where the trees are—what is called the Bosque region—driving north and south from Santa Fe on weekends with real estate agents. When they saw the hotels in Belen, built parallel to each other on opposite corners, they asked an agent to see if either was for sale. The Belen Hotel was available. They ended up buying it twice.

The building belonged to a woman who was making payments, in lieu of a mortgage, to its previous owner. She intended to run the place as a bed-and-breakfast and had managed to have it listed in the National Register. Chicago gave her drawings for a down payment. A few weeks later, Woodman and a contractor shined a flashlight into the crawl-space underneath the building and discovered what Woodman describes as "every form of asbestos known to man." They also found asbestos on the back of vinyl tiles that had been laid in

the second-floor hallway. Thirty thousand dollars, said a contractor, would remove it. Woodman called the New Mexico Environmental Protection Agency to see if taking it out himself was a sensible idea. The man he spoke to asked how old he was. Late 40s, Woodman said. Fine, the man said, the consequences were unlikely to show up for at least 30 years. Woodman and Chicago gave the building back; New Mexico law allows a buyer to nullify a sales contract if a building is found to be defective.

Finishing the *Holocaust Project* took five years, not two. Chicago and Woodman kept looking for a place to live but didn't find one. Working so many years on the project had put them in debt. In 1993, they were offered the hotel again, this time by the woman who had sold it to the woman Chicago and Woodman had dealt with. The building had been returned to her when the other woman defaulted on her payments. She had been surprised to hear about the asbestos and to learn that the hotel was practically worthless. "You couldn't renovate without removing the asbestos," Woodman says, "and until it was gone, you couldn't tear the building down, either." Chicago and Woodman settled with the woman on a price. Carrying letters from the New Mexico State Preservation Office describing the hotel's importance, Woodman set about finding money to restore it. Not a single bank in New Mexico was willing to give him any. Eventually the money came in the form of loans from

the state preservation office and from the National Trust.

When Woodman and Chicago first owned the hotel, in 1988, it had been in pretty good shape. By 1993, all the windows were broken, someone had knocked a hole the size of a tabletop in one of the second-floor walls, and water arriving through leaks in the roof had rotted many of the floorboards and much of the plaster. Using the spindles in the main stairway as kindling, transients had set fires to

Looking east on Becker Ave. in Belen, N.M., today and the hotel, inset, in 1907. Opposite, Woodman and Chicago; detail of the brickwork.



keep warm. A woman and her child were living in the building. Woodman would drive down from Santa Fe to do what he could to keep the place from falling completely apart. "I was one step ahead of the vandals," he says. "I'd hammer up the back entrance and leave, and they'd take down the boards and move in."

HISTORY: THE

hotel was built in 1907 by Bertha Rutz, an emigrant from Germany who came to Wisconsin as a child. Rutz arrived in Belen as a governess. She worked for John Becker, a merchant, who gave land to the Santa Fe railroad for a switching yard, a gesture that guaranteed the town a prominence; passengers and freight on their way toward the four points of the compass changed trains in Belen. Rutz gave up being a governess and ran a boarding house called the Commercial Hotel, and then she bought two lots a block east of the tracks and built the Belen Hotel. Drummers took rooms, but most of the clients were linemen and mechanics and engineers on the railroad. Rutz had a contract with the Santa Fe to provide rooms for its employees. Passengers mostly stayed at the Harvey House. Fred Harvey ran hotels in the West along the railroad. He advertised in Midwest newspapers for young women to work in them; the women were called Harvey girls. Many of them married ranchers.

Rutz never married, but she raised the five children belonging to her brother and sister-in-law after the two of them died. None of the children cared to own the hotel, and Rutz sold it in 1953. The Belen remained a hotel until the '60s, when it was run as a rooming house for a few years.

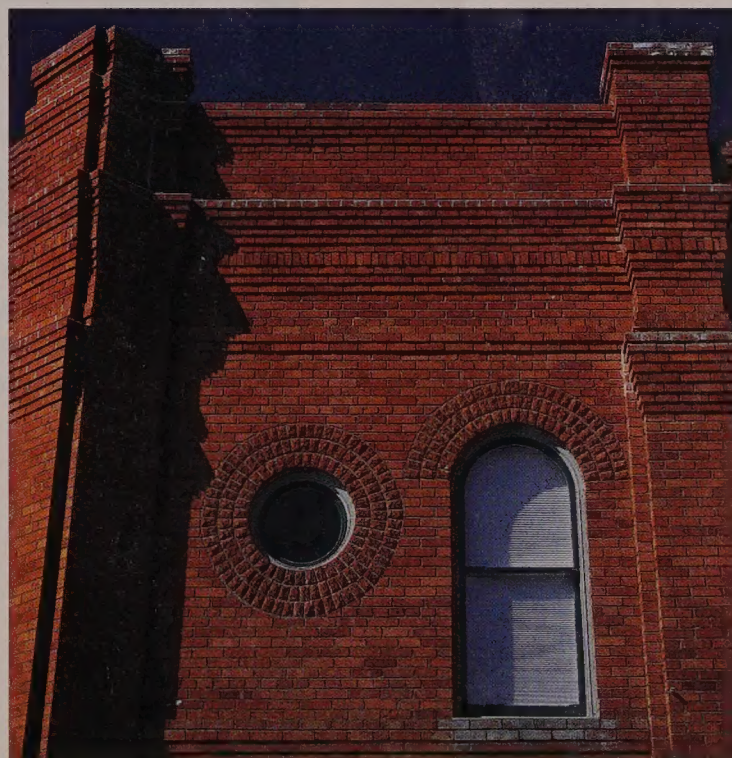
Belen is one of those solitary desert towns that come into view around a turn in the road. It is surrounded by vistas of

**The hotel
is solid
and elegant,
and its
brickwork
is appealing.**

dusty land in which the main variations are piñon pines; to the west are mountains. The sky is an enormous dome, as clear as a lens, and so pale at the edges that it appears almost white. The brick in the hotel is a warm red that looks new. On the front of the building a neon sign says Hotel, spelled vertically, and Belen horizontally at the top. Across the street are the Sugar Bowl Lanes; from a window in one of the hotel's upstairs rooms a sign is visible that reads, "Bowl for Fun." Down the block stands E. Garcia's Grocery and Meat Market and

next to that a bar with a sign in the window that says "Kountry Music, Fri., Sat., Sun." The railroad tracks are one block east, and within the hotel one frequently hears train whistles and the collisions of the cars being shunted on the sidings. Dogs wander in the street. Birds collect on the phone wires like beads on an abacus. On Third Street a row of elm trees throws shade on the sidewalk. Midwesterners lonesome for the appearance of home brought elms to New Mexico.

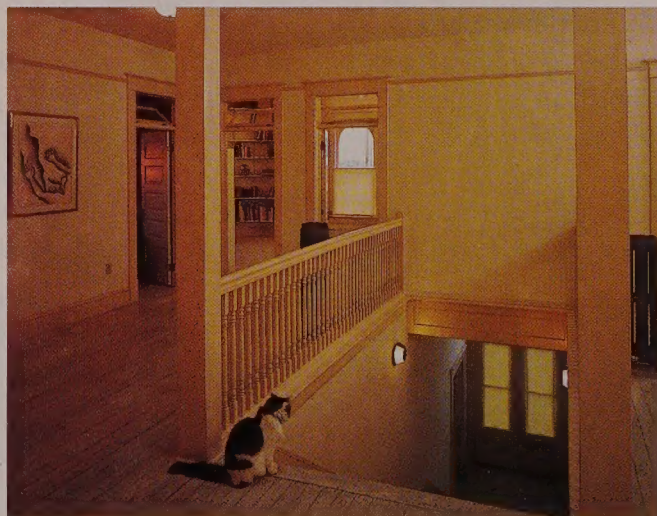
CHICAGO, WHO IS 57, IS SMALL AND COMPACT. She has wavy, red hair and an open, intelligent face, and she has a strutting, purposeful walk, like the walk of a boxer. She has been an influential and much-discussed American painter and sculptor for nearly 30 years. She is probably best known for *The Dinner Party*, an installation in the form of a triangular table with place settings commemorating women from history. In 1988 Robert Hughes, perhaps the most highly regarded art critic in America, wrote in *Time* magazine, "Judy Chicago's *Dinner Party* is the chief work of art produced by an American woman." The *Holocaust Project* was shown first in Chicago, in 1993, and since then has been to Boston, Cleveland, Austin,





Tex., and St. Petersburg, Fla.

Woodman is 51. He is tall and thin, with brown curly hair and a mustache and a long, sharp nose. His manner is thoughtful and patient and relaxed. In his work he is painstaking and persistent. He felt it was important that "the fundamental elements—the brickwork—be sound. I want the building to last a long time," he says. He considers himself especially fortunate in having found a mason, Trinne Mascareña, who had grown up in Belen and was much admired for the resourcefulness and precision of his work. Mascareña read widely and taught himself Greek, and he died unexpectedly of a heart attack not long after rebuilding the hotel's walls and parapets. Restoring the east wall, Mascareña discovered that the bricks at the middle of the wall were half a course higher than the bricks at the ends. This deviation had caused cracks in the masonry. Water had gotten in the cracks and was undermining the strength of the wall. Mascareña figured that the mistake had been made because three men, probably day laborers, had worked on the wall at the same time—two on the corners and one in the middle—and hadn't used a line to keep



Little remained of the interior beyond the floors, stairs, and skylight, above. Judy Chicago's studio, opposite page, and a detail from the "Holocaust Project."

their courses level. The bricks look new because Mascareña took unweathered bricks from the wall's interior and used them to rebuild the outside of the wall. Mascareña loved working on the hotel so much that after he was done he continued to visit and encourage Woodman and Chicago to persevere, especially when the task seemed overwhelming, as if it might take all of their money and still never be finished. After Mascareña died in 1995, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office gave an award in his memory for the work he had done on the hotel.

Once the asbestos had been removed, in 1993, Woodman had a contractor strip the hotel interior to its frame. Then Woodman did most of the restoration himself. Where the plaster had rotted, he hung drywall. He removed generations of paint from the windows. The sills and frames beneath the paint were pine, from timber cut in the mountains around Belen. Woodman painted the rooms and the hallway the colors he found on the lowest layers, variations on greens and browns. Using cypress he bought in Los Angeles, he built 17 doors modeled after the one original set that he

had. Sanding the floors erased almost all the damage from the leaks in the roof. In the upstairs hallway is a circular depression, about two feet around, where a derelict laid a fire.

B **EING MORE OF A BOARDING HOUSE** than a hotel, the building never had a lobby. There were 31 rooms, 12 on the first floor and 19 on the second. A staircase rises from the front door to the second floor; above the landing where it arrives is a skylight. The staircase divides the first floor in half along the length of the building. Chicago has a painting studio on one side, and on the other side Woodman has a darkroom, a workshop, and a shooting studio. During various periods of the hotel's history these rooms were occupied by a restaurant, a bar, a meat market, and a sitting room for the use of the town's schoolteachers. Upstairs, in the corner of the front of the building where Rutz had her office, Chicago has a drawing studio. Woodman put an office in the other front corner, and there is also a guest room with a sitting room. The bottom window sashes have shades; the upper sashes are open. Sitting in a chair in any one of the rooms, one looks up at the sky. "Why I have these half shades," Chicago says, "is the sky is so incredible here."

The woman from whom Chicago and Woodman bought the building the first time held an auction of the hotel's furniture, and there are no pictures Woodman knows of that show what the interior of the hotel looked like when it belonged to Rutz. Undoubtedly sofas and chairs sat on the landing at the top of the stairs, but there are none now. The landing is open and spare—it feels like an airy, high-ceilinged loft. The only adornments are two radiators and a number of black-and-white photographs by Woodman of chairs in London parks and the people sitting in them, and an odd ethereal series of windblown trash bags caught in the barbed wire of cattle fences by the roadside. With the architect Charles E. Boles representing the state preservation office, Woodman and Chicago discussed what they thought was important to retain of the hotel's interior. Boles said that the staircase and the arrangement of the doors along the upstairs hall mattered most. In places where Woodman took down walls between rooms, he left the doors in the hallway intact. Rutz had lit the hallway with single bare bulbs that hung from the ceiling by wires. When Boles suggested to Woodman that he restore this arrangement, Woodman said, "Do it in your own house."

Woodman and Chicago live in

the back of the second floor. "It is a 7,000-square-foot building," Woodman says, "but we really only live in a thousand square feet of it." They have a kitchen and a dining room and a large bedroom and off it, at the end of the hallway, in the place where the hotel staff used to wash the chamber pots, a small sitting room. Woodman and Chicago each have a closet and a bathroom. Chicago's bathroom has the only tub that was left in the hotel; it is made of cast iron and so is the skirt around the base.

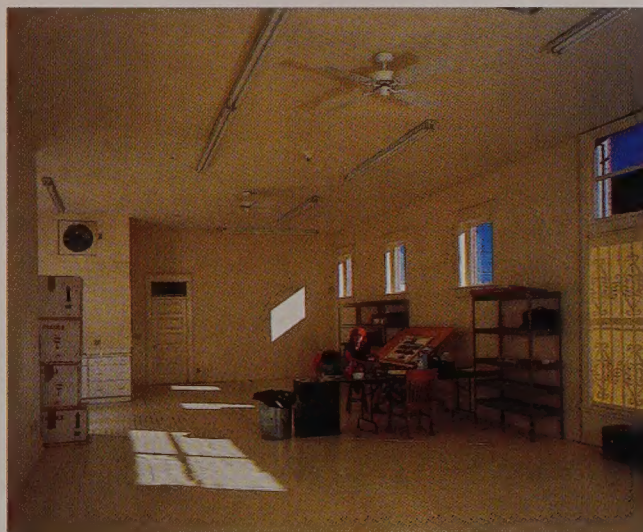
T **HE WORK WAS COMPLETED AND** Woodman and Chicago moved into the hotel last July. I went to see them a few weeks later, and we sat one evening on a terrace built on the roof of the first floor, outside the kitchen, and drank wine and watched the wide open sky change color and the night come down like a curtain. Chicago said that restoring the hotel had been Woodman's project. "Donald really did everything," she said, "and I kept busy with my work." I asked Woodman what had drawn him to the hotel. "What always intrigued me," he said, "is that it's a utilitarian building. A traveler's hotel. The details are pedestrian—two columns on the front and parapets on the roof—it's typical of decorative, Victorian brick architecture. Inside there's no fancy woodwork or complicated touches, so the restoration was straightforward. Also, the building has many of the elements we all admire in architectural history: high ceilings, transom windows, a large central skylight, windows that were put into place to bring light and air into the building at certain times

of day. The brickwork is of a human scale, and it's appealing to look at. It's not of such an overwhelming size that you can only see the first two floors. You can stand across the street by the bowling alley and take in the whole facade.

"On top of all that," Woodman said, "the place was not in any way affected, as so many buildings are, by someone intent on displaying his financial power or by an architect showing off everything he can do. It's solid and elegant and companionable. Had I been fortunate enough to build the place from scratch, this building illustrates my philosophy of design."

No one said anything then for a while. We drank the wine and sat in the cool, desert air, the stars hanging above us like lanterns. **P**

Alec Wilkinson is a staff writer for The New Yorker. His most recent book is A Violent Act.





An old store, above, was one of the few buildings Thomas Harding found remaining in the community of Lollie, Ark. The little building on the opposite page was constructed in 1899 in Boxley, Ark.; its first floor was a school, and the second floor was used as a lodge hall. In recent years church services have been held there; a cemetery appears at right in the photograph.

Preservation

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JANUARY /
FEBRUARY 1997

FOUND IN SPACE

A museum in Kansas
rescues the right stuff.

BY THOMAS MALLON

GARRY WILLS ON SERLIO • SMALL-TOWN BIG BUSINESS • GAY SAN FRANCISCO

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REMEMBER WHEN

Days gone by

Courtesy of the Valencia County
Historical Society

Oct. 8, 1914

Hoodlums at work in Belen. When the residents of this town awoke yesterday morning, their gaze came in contact with one of the most (horrible) pieces of artistic handiwork that they had ever set their eyes upon ... It is

evident that some young men ... instead of staying home and studying something in order to better their intellect, in which they have proved to be sorely lacking in every respect, in both moral culture and refinement, got busy with paint and brush and decorated three or four of Belen's business establishments with ... some of the most vulgar phrases capable only of the lowest mind and of those persons utterly

shorn of Christian teachings and morals. We hope that the young hoodlums will soon be caught and taught a lesson they will not soon forget.

Oct. 28, 1915

Mr. John Becker Sr. and family motored to Islaleta last Sunday. Due to unavoidable circumstances, they hit a cow that got in the way. No damage to cow, but Mr. Becker is out the price of a couple of lamps (headlights).

Oct. 9, 1955

Chile for sale. 7 cents a pound. You pick. Ernest Sichler, Los Lunas.

(Readers interested in joining the Valencia County Historical Society should contact its president, Richard Melzer, at rmelzer@unm.edu)



Photo courtesy of the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts

Belen Hotel during construction, c. 1907.

Q What do you think about when you are alone in your car?

A “I think about my dreams and goals. I envision the life I want and the things I want to accomplish. I take time to have intentional thought about what my purpose is and express gratitude for my current life.”

“I am usually running a million miles, so the car is a great time to force myself to sit in my thoughts and feelings. I lost my Daddy in 2016, so I also find when I am alone in my car, I talk to him a lot.”

Q What is a myth about your profession you would like to bust?

A “I think a common myth about school counselors is that our purpose is to only serve the academic success of our students. The truth is, for a student to find academic success, they first need to feel safe and regulated. They need the basic comforts of health and positive sense of self. A school counselor spends far more time building meaningful relationships than reviewing English scores.”

Q What were you like in high school?



A school counselor at Belen High School, RaeCee Vallejos often pitches in to help with various events on the campus.

told me, “Suck it up and suck it in.” Anytime I am having a hard day and want to throw in the towel, I hear her ... I hear those words and suddenly I am strong and brave.”



Even as a little girl, living her best little girl life, RaeCee Vallejos loved to dance in the rain.

but also super interesting. When I was a kid, my family would call me ‘Conroy Chino.’ Apparently, I was always concerned with everyone’s business, so that would be fitting.

ism, I had strongly considered a life as a coach/teacher. My father discouraged the idea, explaining how difficult it can be. I assumed he was talking about coaching, but maybe it was the teaching aspect.

Throwing caution to the wind, I accepted a position as a computer and media instructor. Los Lunas High School principal Robert Abney, who was among many who were very supportive, warned that the first year in the classroom was “like drinking from a fire hose.” Abney gets an A for accuracy.

Why bring this up now?

The debate over improving education and making thoughtful changes seems to have gotten more serious in recent months and after dipping my toe in academia, I might be able to add some perspective. Certainly, these musings shouldn’t carry nearly as much weight as those who have lived the experience year-after-year. But any obser-

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HOTEL BELLEVILLE - Film to make Hotel look old sagging due to rain.

During filming of the MOVIE TRANSCENDENCE starring Johnny Depp

Jim Star

PAWCE 54-3



Hotel Baden
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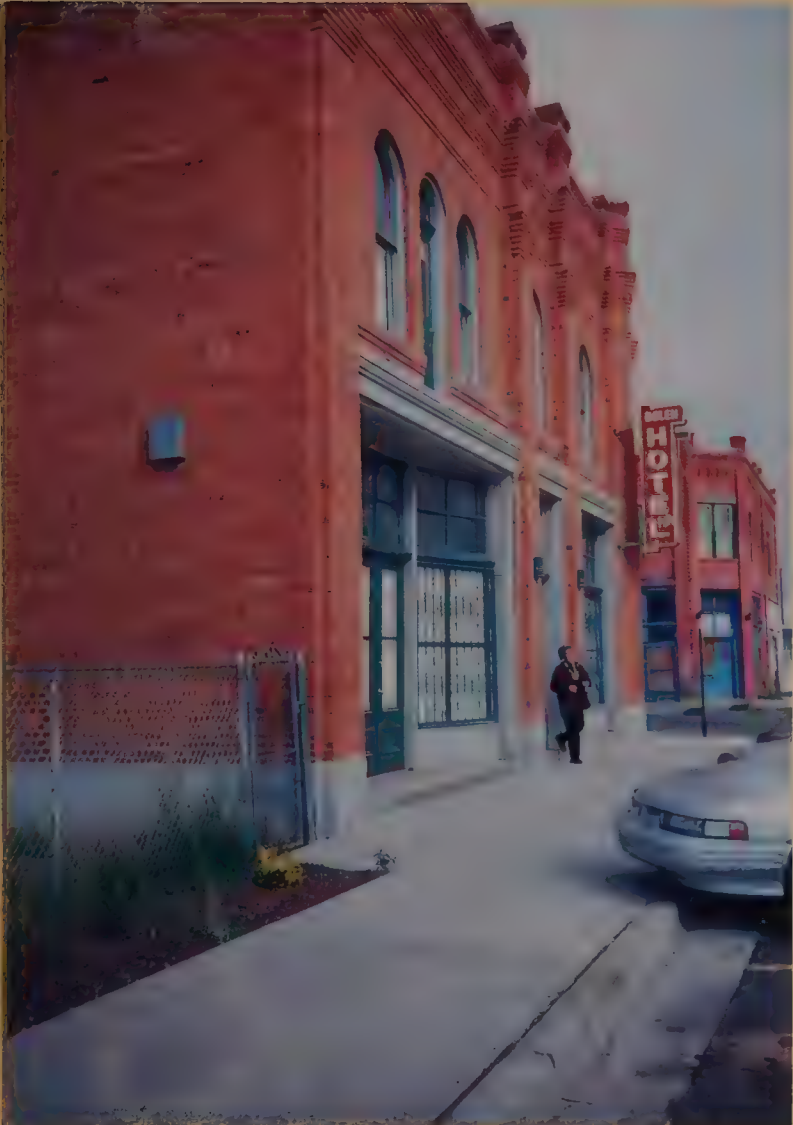
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UNderhill 4-9932

BELEN HOTEL

Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Callaway
Owners

200 Becker Ave.
Belen, New Mexico

BELEN HOTEL

200 Becker Ave.

Belen, N. M.

Underhill 4-9932

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The Last Hotel

Artists save endangered Belén landmark



Artist Judy Chicago and photographer Donald Woodman (inset) are credited with saving the once abandoned and ramshackled Belén Hotel, which now not only serves as their home and studio, but also as a source of community pride.

story by S. Derrickson Moore • photography by Donald Woodman

BHAC 2-1-37-7

Home owners who are veterans of successful renovation projects are entitled to give themselves a pat on the back, but it's rare when a whole town joins in the accolades.

When two established and well-known New Mexico artists turned the fading Belén Hotel into their new home and studio, the *Belén News-Bulletin* cheered them in an editorial: "Bravo to Donald Woodman and Judy Chicago for their wonderful restoration work on the old Belén Hotel. What was once a deteriorating and vandalized piece of local history has been saved through their hard work, foresight and determination."

Judy Chicago is the innovative artist who brought the world *The Dinner Party*, the *Birth Project* and the *Holocaust Project: From Dark-*



Woodman's photographs decorate the second floor central hall.

native work featuring elaborate, handcrafted place settings designed to commemorate famous women in Western civilization.

From 1980 to 1985 she worked with more than 140 women on the *Birth Project*. Toward the end of the *Birth Project*, she met photographer Donald Woodman in Santa Fe and the two married in 1985. The same year they began to collaborate on the *Holocaust Project*, a 3,500-square-foot traveling exhibition that combines painting and photography in a poignant memorial to Holocaust victims.

Woodman's photographs are also included in the exhibition catalog and two of Chicago's other books, *The Dinner Party* and *Beyond the Flower: The Autobiography of a Feminist Artist*, (both Viking/Penguin).

Despite successful collaborations on epic projects that would daunt most artists, the challenges of a major home renovation tested all of their skills, Woodman says. "We were living in a rented house in Santa Fe and started traveling on weekends, looking for a place of our own. We both liked the bosque and Belén

area and we loved the hotel." Loved it so much, in fact, they bought it twice.

Chicago offered some drawings as a down payment, but they had second thoughts after discovering they would face a costly and dangerous asbestos removal project before they could proceed with renovations and retracted their offer. Five years later, the hotel was offered to them again, and they purchased it in 1993. In the interim, the building had been damaged by vandalism and small fires set by transients. But the 7,000-square-foot building was basically sound, Woodman says, and they were still in love with Belén's small town ambiance and the idea of preserving a part of the state's history.



A print of Chicago's Mary Queen of Scots from her Great Ladies series adorns the guest suite.

ness Into Light. A pioneer in women's art projects, she founded the first Feminist Art Program and co-founded the Feminist Studio Workshop at the Woman's Building in Los Angeles. She has exhibited her works and lectured all over the world. In 1974, she began work on her best-known project, *The Dinner Party*, a large, collabo-



Romeo the cat appears to await dinner in the kitchen area.

The hotel was built in 1907 by Bertha Rutz, a German emigrant who came to Belén to serve as a governess for merchant John Becker. He donated land to the Santa Fe Railroad for the switching yard that made Belén a Southwestern transportation center. When Rutz left her governess post, she ran a boarding house called Hotel Belén on the site. When she sold the hotel in 1953, it continued as a hotel, then a commercial property with offices, before falling into disrepair.

The new owners collected letters from the New Mexico State Preservation Office describing the hotel's importance and set off in search of financing. "Contrary to popular opinion, I'm not rich, so we're always looking for ways to fund things," Chicago says. The couple discovered traditional home financing sources were not interested in renovating National Historic Register properties. "We couldn't find a single bank in New Mexico willing to lend us money for the project," Woodman says. Through the help of Tom Merlan, then director of the State



Large hotel windows flood the master bedroom with natural light.

Historic Preservation Division, they finally secured start-up funds with a loan from the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and personal sources.

Next came the hard part, the actual renovation and restoration.

Woodman, who holds a bache-

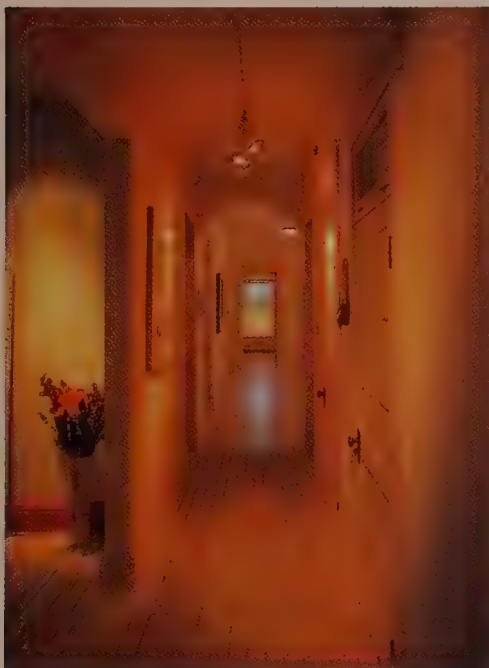
tion. They were aided by Historic Preservation Division architect Ed Boles and Robert Zachry, a friend and architect from Santa Fe. The final push to complete the project was accomplished in the spring of 1996 with a loan made by Tim Hargrove, president of First State Bank of Taos, Los Lunas branch, and with a crew of workers from Albuquerque contractor Cactus Rose, for whom Woodman worked as a supervisor.

Besides his degree in architecture, Woodman holds a master's degree in photography from the University of Houston and has combined interest in both fields with a career as an architectural photographer. His work has been featured in major home journals and architectural magazines and his creative work hangs in museums, as well as corporate and private collections around the world.

"People in Belén were very generous with their help and their time," he says. He was especially



Above—The Belén Hotel as it appeared on its day of dedication, 1907. Left—Chicago's Through the Flower graces the hallway leading to her office.



lor's degree in architecture from the University of Cincinnati and has worked as both an architect and contractor in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, was poised to create his own masterpiece. Chicago and Woodman worked closely together to design the new layout for the interior of the building and to choose colors for the restora-

grateful when a skilled mason and Belén native became interested in the project. "Trinnie Mascarena taught me a lot. He was a wonderful person. When the money ran out, he'd still come over and help out. He died of a heart attack at age 45, and it was a tragic loss for the community and for me." To

please see page 49

At home. . .

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Chicago and Woodman's home is on the National Historic Register.

continued from page 47

honor Mascarena's work on the hotel, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Office gave a posthumous award in his memory.

Eventually, Woodman and Chicago's dream house and studio were shaped.

Cozy living quarters, a dark-room for Woodman and spacious studio and office space took form. "We preserved as many of the original elements as possible, including doors and trim work. Even a lot of the colors are original shades we found when we scraped down to the original paint," Woodman says. The result, he feels, is "elegant in its simplicity."

Now big artistic projects are under way behind the restored hotel's neat brick facade. The hotel has already become a gathering place for Chicago's latest undertaking. In the hotel's sunny studio space, she meets annually with 18 needleworkers from throughout the United States, working together to complete *Resolutions: A Stitch in Time*. This multimedia work combines uplifting messages with a unique collaborative process using both traditional and innovative needlework techniques.

After more than 100 exhibitions, pieces from the *Birth Project* have been placed in permanent collections in more than 30 institutions throughout the country, from Radcliffe College (the site of the Judy Chicago Archives) in Cambridge, Mass., to the Albuquerque Museum, which now houses the core collection consisting of 13 major works.

Today, Chicago and Woodman work on collaborative and individual projects in the clean, well-lighted spaces they share with a

dapper cat named Romeo and a group of other congenial felines.

And occasionally, the town drops in for a visit. "When we started renovation, we had an open house and over 100 people from the community came to see what we're doing here," Woodman says. "We also had a fundraiser and tour for the Valencia County Historical Society and we have other events here from time to time. We like being a part of this community."

And apparently, the feeling is mutual. "May all the newcomers in Valencia County be blessed with the love for this place that Woodman and Chicago have," the *Belén News-Bulletin* declared in its editorial. "And may they be as anxious to preserve its heritage, to become a part of the community and to love it as wisely as they do."

The non-profit arts organization Through the Flower, of which Woodman is executive director, is headquartered in the hotel. Through the Flower organizes touring art exhibitions and offers an intern program, markets books, posters, notecards and postcards, and provides selected videos and slide sets of *The Dinner Party*, the *Birth Project* and the *Holocaust Project* to institutions and organizations.

For memberships, newsletters and other information about Through the Flower Corp., write 101 N. 2nd Street, Belén, N.M. 87002, phone: (505) 864-4080, e-mail <throughtheflower@compuserve.com> or visit their website at <http://www.JudyChicago.com>.

S. Derrickson Moore is a columnist and arts and entertainment writer for the *Las Cruces-Sun News*.



Belén's Harvey House

was built as part of the extensive restaurant system established by Fred Harvey. Now it houses a museum operated by the Valencia County Historical Society which focuses on the arrival of the Santa Fe railroad in 1880 to the saving of the Harvey House in 1982. The museum's hours are Tuesday through Saturday 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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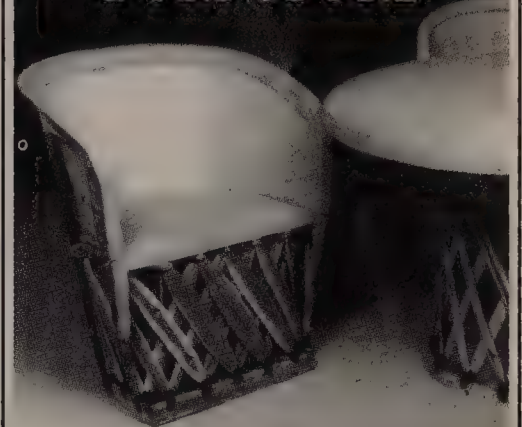
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In all facets of life, hogans—the traditional homes of the Dine’—have given direction to The People for centuries.

The hexagonal or octagonal buildings with pitched or earthen-domed roofs dot the vast Navajo Nation, home of the largest tribe in the country. Some resemble rounded log cabins, others squat stone silos. They serve well as functional architecture, but at the same time they are much more.

“The hogan is considered to be in the likeness of the four sacred mountains,” Navajo Nation President Kelsey Begaye says. “If you knew those traditional teachings with each cardinal point representing different facets of life, physically and psychologically, as well as spiritually, then you had a sense of identity to help you throughout your life.”

Located below Table Mesa 10 miles south of Shiprock, Leo and Sarah Natani’s modern hogan took three years to build and is much larger than the traditional style. An addition of four wings was necessary to accommodate their need for space.



brace their architectural heritage. Silver City established its first historic overlay zone this year, and Roswell may follow suit before the millennium arrives. Even the refined and planar buildings of the modernist post-World War II period are now historic and becoming prized landmarks in the oil and gas boomtowns of Artesia and Farmington.

"We architects need to be more sensitive to the historic fabric of communities," Gilbert says. "I was really touched when recently at a ground-breaking ceremony for our new building at West Las Vegas High School, they celebrated a local man who had written songs for the school."

Chaco Canyon has endured, miles and eons distant from its metropolitan descendants Albuquerque and Santa Fe, maybe just to remind us of our own failings and possibilities. Here, ancestral Pueblo people evidently mastered the design of high-density, energy efficient and environmentally harmonious architecture (although some evidence would argue that even the Anasazi deforested the high plateau of the Four Corners area for their buildings).

The spatial inventions of Chaco, primarily the gigantic geometric planning of the pueblos and the integration of cubical housing spaces with cylindrical kivas, remain advanced, even for the expectations of a new millennium. Perhaps in the example of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico's communities will find some answers.

New Mexico advances relentlessly to a new century, and New Mexico architecture is approaching a crossroads.

"New Mexico architecture is literally stuck in the mud," Sabatini says. "But we've come a long way in the past 20 or 30 years. We're no longer isolated. We're now in the national and global marketplace. It's a great challenge, but hopefully we can work together to create wonderful new buildings and a wonderful place to live."

Frequent New Mexico Magazine contributor **Elmo Baca** is coordinator of the New Mexico Economic Development Department's Community Development Team and the author of several books on architecture and home furnishings.

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BELEN
HOTEL

HOTEL

from Page 1A

News Bulletin - Aug 14-15, 1999

thing we've seen, was very much a focal point of life here," Wells said.

"Despite the fact that it fell into disrepair and vandalism, here came these folks who say 'we don't want to be outsiders, but want to be part of this town and help restore it.'

"Those were the things that really fascinated us."

For decades, the hotel had served the people who traveled or worked on the railroad. It also boasted a small restaurant.

Wells said the work that Chicago and Woodman did is part of a trend that is leading many people back to small towns.

"What Don told me — and I've seen this a number of times — there's a growing sense that a small town offers peace and continuity with history that you simply don't get in large cities any more," he said.

"The Internet seems to be this great mythic communication system that was supposed to drive us into our homes, but what it has really done is allowed us to do is go back into the small towns and create an atmosphere conducive to doing our work creatively. It's 30

minutes to Albuquerque and the airport ... and you still have a home that's in a small town and that's enormously attractive to anyone."

Wells said he doesn't find it surprising that a world-famous couple such as Chicago and Woodman would find themselves living in a small town.

"Don explained that what they were after was living and working in the same building. You need space when you have two artists working in two media ...

"You need space and light to do art. You like having room to stretch out. ... They took some of the hotel for living and included a work space. It's 7,000 square feet — that's bigger than most homes. ... Going downtown in New York or Washington, D.C., and having to rent several thousand square feet of office space would cost a horrendous amount of money."

Wells said in addition to talking about the remodeling itself and what the old hotel now looks like, the crew will also be focusing on the impact on the rest of the community.

Woodman said that he thinks the

focus on the city will be "pretty wonderful for Belen" and that's primarily why he and Chicago agreed to open their home to the series.

He observed that since they moved into the hotel "our whole end of town has changed." Businesses have been renovated, the Harvey House is being restored and the city is expanding its historic district.

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NEWS-BULLETIN Photo

Carol Thomas of Belen, new owner of the Belen Hotel, hopes someday this old stove will once again be used to prepare meals for hotel guests.

Belen Hotel Nominated For Historical Register

By Janette Baughman

BELEN—The Belen Hotel, once a gathering place for social events, a home away from home for railroaders and remembered by many area residents as the place they used to go for Sunday dinner, has been nominated for a place on the state historical register.

Built around 1907 by Bertha Rutz, the 31-room hotel at Second and Becker, recently was purchased by Carol Thomas, who has been renovating the rooms and lobby and hopes someday to see the dining room open once again for family style dinners.

Bertha Rutz, who came to be known to many as Aunt Bertha, was born in Brostowo, Germany, June 11, 1873, and came to the United States about 10 years later. She lived in Wisconsin for a time, then came to Belen in 1889 at age 26 to serve as governess to the children of Belen pioneer John Becker and his wife, Anna.

Bertha also did the cooking for the family and seldom planned on less than 20 people for dinner, since people who worked at the Becker Store, along with salesmen and drummers often were invited for dinner.

Before Miss Rutz decided to build the Belen Hotel, she operated the Commercial Hotel for a time. That hotel located in an adobe building on First Street, later became the Kuhn Hotel. Thieves Market is now in that location.

It was Jan. 6, 1907, when Miss Rutz purchased two lots at Second and Becker from the Belen Town and Improvement Co. for \$850. The exact date the Hotel was completed at that site is not known, but it was soon to become home for many travelers, in-

cluding railroad men and salesmen, and the scene of many social events.

The Belen High School annual for 1923 shows that the "reception hall" of the hotel was the scene of the football banquet which was planned by the players' mothers. Asher Smith was master of ceremonies and Ben Rutz, Bertha's nephew, was team captain. A senior dance also was held at the hotel reception room that year.

Miss Rutz remained a single woman during all the 50 years she operated the hotel before her death in 1953. But she was not without a big family. When her brother and his wife died several years apart, she raised their five children. To Bertha, the five nieces and nephews became "my children."

Bertha had regular boarders for many years, and Sunday dinner was a special treat for many families who enjoyed her home cooking, served family style. In the dining room was a long table that could seat 12. A white

[Please turn to Page 10]

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Belen Hotel featured on new Bob Vila show

News-Bulletin April 14-15, 1999

By SANDY BATTIN
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

A television crew developing a new series to be hosted by home renovation expert Bob Vila was in Belen Tuesday to videotape a segment on the renovation of the old Belen Hotel by artist Judy Chicago and her photographer husband Donald Woodman.

Larry Wells, a producer for a series to be called "Restore America" to be aired on the Home and Garden cable television network, said he isn't sure yet when the segment will air. The Belen portion of the program would be included on a New Mexico program featuring five houses.

He said a researcher goes through newspapers and magazines that focus on renovations and comes up with ideas. Vila wasn't in the city.

"What we found interesting was the idea of a small hotel in a small town and the impact its renovation had on the community. We thought it would be a natural for us," Wells said.

On Tuesday, the crew interviewed Mayor Ronnie Torres and



Katherine Saltzstein-News-Bulletin photo

Cameraman Frank DeJoseph films the historic district of Belen for a cable television series. The Belen Hotel, renovated by photographer Donald Woodman and his artist wife Judy Chicago, is being featured in the series.

Woodman. Woodman not only has a degree in architecture, but worked closely with local artisans such as the late Trinnie Mascareña to renovate the old hotel.

Chicago was scheduled to be interviewed on Wednesday and the interior of the hotel-turned-home and studio was to be shot.

But the renovation wasn't the

only thing being focused on. "We talked about the role of the railroad here. We shot some old photos of the town ... the hotel, from every

■ See *Hotel*, page 6A

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PLUS MANY, MANY MORE TO CHOOSE FROM

In her will, Bertha named her nieces and nephews as her heirs. Margaret

The wooden swing made by one of Miss Rutz's nephews still hangs below the skylight at the top of the stairs.

Already it is home to 13 renters. Miss Thomas, former county administrative aide and now in real estate, enjoys the challenge of renovating the hotel and is enthusiastic about its future.

Whether or not Miss Thomas remains as owner, her wish is that the old two-story hotel once again becomes a place for social gatherings, a home away from home for travelers.

And who knows? Room 18 may once again become the bridal suite.



Photos by Janette Baughman



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STEVE GURULE-ROSE GOULD

Belen Couple to Recite Vows in Catholic Rite

BELEN—Miss Rose Linda Gould, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Gould of 325 Sixth, and Steve Gurule, son of Mr. and Mrs. Seledon Gurule of 626 Buena Vista have set Saturday, June 21 as their wedding date.

The Rev. Alex Gauthier, pastor, will perform the double-ring ceremony at 5 p.m. in Our Lady of Belen Catholic Church.

Sally Ortega will be maid of honor. Bridesmaids will be Catherine Hidalgo, Cathy Chavez and Tammy Gould. Sharon Saavedra will be flower girl.

Milton Sanchez will be

best man. Mike Torres, Mike Gurule and Ben Gurule will be groomsmen. Ushers will be Robert Lucero and Andrew Jaramillo. Oscar Ortega will be ring bearer.

After the ceremony, a reception will be held in the Parish Hall of the church.

On their return from a trip to Los Angeles, Calif., the couple will reside in Las Cruces.

The bride was graduated from Belen High School and is an instructor at Jazz-works.

Gurule, also a graduate of Belen High School, is a student at the University of New Mexico.

Women's Club Installs Officers

BOSQUE FARMS—Mrs. Jim (Tommie) Lyons, of 1375 Truchas, was installed as president of the Eastern Valencia Women's Club at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. Ed Gesek of Ponderosa Farms.

Other officers installed were Mrs. Don (Sigrid) Cox, vice president; Mrs. Cliff (Crystal) Widener, secretary, both of Bosque Farms and Mrs. Archie (Rose Anne) Smart of Los Lunas. Mary Lee Martin of Albuquerque, second vice president, New Mexico Federation of Women's Clubs, was installing officer.

The club is a civic organization meeting from September to May, the third Wednesday in each month. The group is planning a membership tea in August. Anyone who would like more information concern-

ing the group may call Mrs. Cox, membership chairman, at 869-3709 or Mrs. Lyons at 869-6029.

Current projects include the Rainbow House, Mobile Meals, which is held in conjunction with five local churches, Assembly of God Church, Bosque Farms, Los Lunas Baptist Church, Bosque Farms Baptist Church, Peralta Memorial United Methodist Church, and Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, Peralta.

Also sponsored by the club is the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) program for the Peralta and Bosque Farms schools and is expected to include the Middle and Central Schools, Los Lunas, next season.

Members are in the planning stage of having a bilingual library hour in the fall.

Los Lunas HS Class of 1955 Sets Reunion

LOS LUNAS — The Los Lunas High School Class of 1955 is planning a reunion July 5-6 and anticipates that all 56 members of the class will be present.

A tour of new school facilities which many have not seen will start the weekend activities on Saturday, July 5, at 10 a.m. That evening there will be cocktail hour at 6 p.m. at Horizon Country Club, followed by a dinner at 7 and dance at 9.

On Sunday, the group will gather for a picnic at the home of Tayo and Della Garcia in Peralta.

Fidel Aragon, now a member of the Los Lunas School Board, is chairman of the event. Any class member who has not been contacted is asked to make reservations and submit a resume to Aragon.

Bailey Padilla, class president, will be master of ceremonies at the dinner.



AGNES SCHMINCK

Library Names Artist of Month

BELEN—Agnes Naranjo Schminck of 630 Carmel Rd. had been named 'Artist of the Month' at the Belen Public Library. She and her husband, John, moved to Belen approximately a year ago after retirement from the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories.

Inspired by her mother, Fly Summit Naranjo of Santa Clara Pueblo, an art instructor at Santa Fe and Albuquerque Indian School, she early showed artistic ability and enrolled in the College of Fine Arts at the University of New Mexico. She had planned to

become a medical artist but became interested in biological research and went on to earn a PhD in biology from the University of Chicago.

Mrs. Schmidt studied with Raymond Jonson and Ralph Douglas at the University of New Mexico and since her retirement has studied with Ben Konis and Agnes O'Brien.

Interested in all styles of painting, Mrs. Schminck usually paints in pastel, watercolor and oil. She signs her pictures with her Indian name of Ko-Hon-Kaw.

Five Methodist Youths Awarded High Honors

BELEN—Five students, members of the First United Methodist Church, have been inducted into The Society of Distinguished American High School Students.

They are Earl Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Jones, 62 Vista Del Rio; Todd Marsh, son of Dr. and Mrs. Dean March, 512 N. Fourth; Pete Nichols, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Nichols, 1505 W. Reinken; Kathy Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Roberts, north of Belen and Jeff Treat, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Carl Treat, 212 N. Fifth.

The Rev. Mr. Treat, the students' sponsor, received a National Appreciation award from the Society on behalf of the students for the interest shown in honoring and rewarding excellence on the secondary school level.

The Society's National Awards program is sponsored by more than 90 colleges and universities throughout the United States. Thousands of dollars in scholarship funds from these institutions are earmarked for Society members.

The purpose of the Society is to promote both academic and civic achievement by recognizing students in its membership registry, which is published annually and distributed throughout the United States and part of Europe.

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Church Sets Vacation Bible School

BOSQUE FARMS — The First Baptist Church of Bosque Farms will hold its annual Vacation Bible School June 23-27 from 9 a.m. to noon. It is open to all children of the area.

Classes will be for children ages three through those who have completed sixth grade. Highlights will be songs, games, Bible stories, craft activities and refreshments will be served.

Bus transportation will be provided in the Bosque Farms vicinity. Parents who need transportation for their youngsters should call 869-6523 as soon as possible.

The faculty includes Mrs. Donald Brent, principal; with Nelda Weaver, nursery; Linda Dutton, three-year-olds; Sarah Heaslet, four and five-year-olds; Patt Darr, first and second grades; Peggy Darlington, third and fourth grades; Peggy Dutton, fifth and sixth grades.

A Parents' Night program will be held Friday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the church auditorium.



NEWS-BULLETIN Photo

Sarah Paterniti models the dress made by her mother, Roxanne, at the Cotton Extravaganza. Matching material was used to cover the antique parasol she carries.

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Black Group To Present Park Concert

BELEN—"The Followers of Christ" will minister at the Anna Becker Park Monday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m. The concert is sponsored by Walter Well Youth Outreach.

Open to the public at no charge, a love offering will be accepted.

The group's first album, 'In His Footsteps' has received praises from radio audiences across the country, according to the sponsor.

The nine-member Black group, of Tulsa, Okla., formerly of Detroit, is in its first major national tour across the United States.

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Parent Education Topic At Single's Conference

"Parent education should be directed to the child at the grammar school level," stated Dr. Richard Smith, head of the University of New Mexico's Department of Home Economics, in an address to the delegates of Parents Without Partners.

Dr. Smith said that without such education teens and young adults are unprepared

ed for early marriage and consequently a high percentage of these marriages fail. "Teenagers who marry can expect only a 10 percent success rate."

Speaking to members from chapters in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Farmington, Las Cruces, Belen and El Paso, Dr. Smith denied that most single parents rely on governmental support. Much support comes from their immediate families but often the greatest support comes from within. "Literally, the single parent pulls himself up by his bootstraps," he said.

Baha'is Faith Has Informative Weekly Meets

BELEN—The Baha'is of Belen will hold weekly meetings for persons interested in learning about the Baha'i Faith. These sessions will be held Thursdays at 300 N. 14th St., starting at 7:30 p.m.

The Baha'i Faith has three primary teachings: that God is One; that the religions of the world are one in spirit; and that mankind is one family.

The Messenger from God for this Day is Bah'u'llah, whose name means the Glory of God. His mission is to bring about the unity of mankind throughout the world "The earth is one country and mankind its citizens."

Anyone desiring additional information may call Chris or Linda Cholas at 864-2645.

Class of 1970 Reunion Set

BELEN — Belen High School class of 1970 will hold its 10-year class reunion on Saturday, July 26 and Sunday, July 27.

Coffee for all class members will be served in the high school library from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday. A dinner dance will be held that evening in the La Costancia Inn.

Highlight on Sunday will be a family picnic at El Paso Natural Gas picnic area.

Any class member who has not received notification of the reunion may call Rosaline T. Chavez, 864-3368 or Rita G. Sanchez, 821-2914.

Bosque Farms Milk Company

Don Caswell—Owner

The Bosque Farms Milk Company, located near Highway 47 in Bosque Farms, are distributors of a full line of top quality dairy products. These include homogenized and pasteurized milk, 2% milk, and buttermilk, to name just a few. Ask for it by name at your favorite grocer or phone 869-9931.

Valuable assistance is given the economy of this section as a whole for they buy and pay for thousands of gallons of milk monthly, thereby helping to increase the prosperity of this region as well as the state.

Bosque Farms Tire & Automotive

Phil Jaramillo—Owner

The name Bosque Farms Tire & Automotive in Bosque Farms at 655 Bosque Farms Boulevard, phone 869-2692 has become a popular word in this area for farmers, businessmen, and everyday drivers for their friendly service and excellent line of high quality tires.

We all know that worn tires can be dangerous and Bosque Farms Tire & Automotive carries a large stock of sizes on hand so you won't have to drive on those old tires while waiting for your new ones to come in.

Along with their fine line of reasonably priced tires, they make sure that when the tires are mounted they will be in perfect balance.

This well known shop specializes in all types of automotive repair and service. They use the latest equipment and handle any type of job in the shortest time possible. They also feature AAA service.

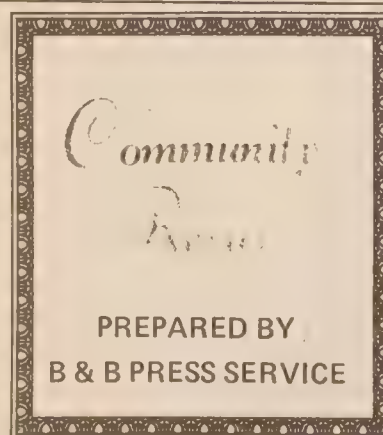
University Heights Hospital

Ken Duncan—Administrator

Every year, University Heights Hospital reaches out to service an ever widening area. This hospital stands like a sentinel, in this community, to guard the health and welfare of all the citizens, young and old alike.

University Heights Hospital located at 1127 University Boulevard Northeast in Albuquerque, is becoming more important each day. There is a reason for this. University Heights Hospital combines a good atmosphere for recovery with the knowledge and skill of the medical profession. They are equipped to give the best care obtainable and their staff is devoted to this task.

University Heights Hospital is continually making changes in order to keep up with the developments in the medical science field. They are striving to better meet the increasing demand for their services. Telephone 247-9501 for details and information concerning their services.



Overbay Construction

Tom Overbay—Owner

For masonry work of all types, whether brick, block or stone, residents of the area know that Overbay Construction, at 2055 El Dorado Loop in Bosque Farms, offers the best in materials and workmanship. Call 869-3406, and talk to their cost expert. He has experience in estimating for both commercial and residential work.

There are many ways that you can improve the value of your property through artistic use of stone or brick.

Overbay Construction is happy to bid on repairs. Perhaps a chimney that needs "tuck pointing" or a foundation with crumbling mortar. So for new construction or masonry repair, we, the compilers suggest that you contact Overbay Construction in Bosque Farms. You'll be pleased with their performance.

HAROLD'S PHOTOGRAPHY

Harold Hardyman—Owner

Harold's Photography can make candid portraits that you will be pleased to give or proud to own. Harold's Photography is well known for high quality photography work. Anything you need done in commercial photography can be done by Harold's Photography. They have the skill and equipment necessary for all such work.

For the bride and groom, Harold's Photography offers a service that is considered indispensable. The wedding album is a must if you want to make that occasion live forever.

Stop at Harold's Photography and see sample albums and work out details for your album of memories. If you want excellent candid photographs at moderate prices and some of the finest work that money can buy, go to Harold's Photography in Los Lunas at El Dorado Estates. (P.O. Box 753) for your next portraits. Phone 865-6350 for an appointment.

GILBERT'S ADOBE HOMES

Ben Gilbert—Owner

Adobe is a traditional building material in the Southwest. It keeps you warmer in winter, cooler in summer than other materials, at a savings that will surprise you. Of course, all the modern conveniences can be found in a home built of adobe, but the added quiet and comfort adobe gives you can not be achieved in other kinds of buildings, except at very great expense.

If you are contemplating building a new home, you'll be delighted by the advantages available through Gilbert's Adobe Homes, in Tome, phone 865-6450. Write to them at Rt. 2, Box 1034 B Los Lunas. They are the experts in adobe home construction. They have the proper equipment and the experience to build you an energy saving adobe home you will enjoy owning.

COUNTRY CLEANERS

James W. Holloman—Owner

Specialists in all types of cleaning, Country Cleaners has won the respect and admiration of area residents for their fast service and their fine quality work. They are located at 1857 Bosque Farms Boulevard in Bosque Farms, phone 869-3238, and they're waiting to serve you.

When you need shirt service, suede cleaning, drapery pleating or any number of specialized services, this is the recommended cleaner for this area. Their reputation for delivering the finest quality cleaning in the shortest possible period of time has won them friends from all over. Why not make it a point to start taking all of your cleaning to this reliable shop? You'll find their service to be friendly, their prices to be competitive, and their quality to be vastly superior.

We, the compilers of this 1980 Community Review are happy to endorse the fine services that this well known cleaner offers. They won't disappoint you.

BELEN

Tabet Kept Busy For Community

■ *Theresa Lovato Tabet died of a liver ailment Saturday at age 84 after a lifetime of active service*

By PAUL LOGAN
Journal Staff Writer

Belen's Theresa Lovato Tabet was one of the most active members of her community.

Tabet served as president of many organizations and received numerous honors, including New Mexico's Mother of the Year award and having a park named after her.

Tabet died of a liver ailment on Saturday at Presbyterian Hospital. She was 84.

Filomena Baca, one of Tabet's many friends, said they had known each other for about 40 years.

"One thing that impressed me about her was she'd get right in there and roll up her sleeves and work with the rest of us washing the floors," Baca said. "Whatever it took, Theresa was there. She wasn't afraid of work."

Tabet was president of St. Mary School Board as well as a board member. She also was president of the Belen Senior Citizens Board, the Belen Garden Club, the Belen Museum and the Belen Chapter of the Catholic Daughters of America.

She was nominated and then chosen as New Mexico Mother of the Year in 1969. As the state's top

mom, Tabet won a trip to Washington, D.C.

Her other titles included grand marshal for the Our Lady of Belen fiestas, parade marshal for the Belen Chamber of Commerce Electric Light Parade and chairwoman of the local chapter of "Keep New Mexico Beautiful."

"She campaigned for cleaning up the town and landscaping, things of that nature," Baca said.

Tabet's cleanup crusade was so successful that the city named a minipark in her honor, Baca said.

She also was a member of the American Cancer Society Board and was a volunteer for the Red Cross and with Eastern Valencia Hospital.

The Belen Rotary Club presented her with an award in 1978 for devoted and unselfish service to the club and to the community.

"That lady was just tireless and active up to the last minute of her life," Baca said. "She's one of the few people I know who started out when she was young and kept active into her 80s. There are not too many of them. She just enjoyed people ... and she loved her town."

Survivors include her husband, Carlos; three sons, Bonifacio, and his wife, Eloisa; Gilbert, and his wife, Wendy; and Ron, and his wife, Marybelle; and a daughter, Elvia.

She was preceded in death by another son, Carlos "Chico" Tabet.

The family asks that donations in her memory be made to St. Mary School.



DOROTHY VICTOR/STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

STREET SCENE: The hotel near Becker and Second Street is one of the stops on Sunday's tour of Valencia County's historic buildings.

Belen Hotel To Be Opened for Tour

from PAGE 1

of historic buildings sponsored by the Valencia County Historical Society.

Sitting on an elevated wooden deck added to the west side of the hotel, Woodman told the story of how he and Judy, who was out of town this week, came to live in Belen.

"We were living in Santa Fe working on this major project we were about to complete," Woodman said, adding that the lease on their home was about to expire.

"Judy wasn't so sure that she wanted to stay in New Mexico, but I had been here since 1972 and I didn't want to leave," he said. "We knew we didn't want to stay in Santa Fe because it had become too rich. The town I had known as friendly, small and local had attracted too many people who had their own vision about what New Mexico should be, and then they built it."

The couple looked in the Rio Grande Valley and found the hotel. They bought it and then began an "incredible saga" of trying to secure the financing to renovate it. Woodman credits the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division of the Office of Cultural Affairs and the First State Bank as key backers.

The couple agreed to keep the hotel's three defining characteristics: its decorative red-brick facade with parapets, a main indoor stairway and hall, and more than 20 original doors to the hotel rooms. The rooms themselves were reconfigured to fit the couple's living and work needs.

The building suffered over the years from general neglect, arson, vandalism, and a leaking roof. The east wall of the structure was so weakened by water damage and vandalism that it was near collapse. Before the work could begin, the couple had to find a good brickmason.

"I asked around and everybody said, 'You need to talk to Trinnie Mascareña,'" Woodman said. Woodman found Mascareña.

And he found that Mascareña was particular about the jobs he chose.

"I kept pestering him," Woodman said. "I told him we've got this project and I heard he was the best mason in town. I finally got him to come over and we walked around the building. All the time, he was shaking his head and saying, 'I don't know. This is a big project.'"

Mascareña was a musician and a former high school star running back. Most of all, he had gained a reputation as a master craftsman. Mascareña was posthumously honored in May for his work on the hotel with a New Mexico Heritage Preservation Award, given by the Historic Preservation Division.

Woodman, a professional photographer who has a background in architecture and construction, worked "shoulder to shoulder" with Mascareña.

"We became really good friends," Woodman said. "I was really heart-broken when he died. I don't think this project would have been completed without him."

As Woodman leads a visitor on a tour of the 7,000-square-foot hotel, he says that although it was wired for electricity in 1907, there was no power in Belen until much later. Kerosene lamps lit the rooms. Heat came from a coal furnace through steam radiators. The building had no plumbing. A hand pump in the kitchen kept water barrels filled.

Today, brilliant sunshine spills from a large skylight overlooking the central stairway leading from the front door. The original wood floors have been stripped, washed and varnished. The original windows have been rebuilt and painted. A "mystery door to nowhere" is on the second floor. It opens directly over the sidewalk below. Woodman speculated the original owner may have planned to build a balcony overlooking the street but never did. Examples of the couple's artwork and photography hang on the walls. Romeo, the couple's large cat, roams like a prince through a



DON ARMSTRONG/FOR THE JOURNAL

GRACEFUL ASCENT: One of the hotel's defining characteristics respected by the renovation project is its main stairway.

castle.

Woodman said he hopes the restoration of the hotel will spark similar rejuvenations in downtown Belen, which has a collection of historical buildings, such as the red-bricked Central Hotel across the street and the Harvey House, one of the last of the chain of hotels built along the Santa Fe Railway's route.

"In the three years that I've been working down here, a lot of positive things have already happened to this end of town," Woodman said.

Townpeople often dropped by while the work was progressing to tell stories about the hotel. People told about playing at a pool hall across the street. One person said his parents spent their honeymoon at the hotel.

Woodman said he and Chicago have made many friends in Belen.

"We've had good experiences with everybody we've met in town. We know all our neighbors and everybody looks out for each other. You don't get that everywhere," Woodman said. "This is where we live and work. This is where we're going to stay."

Tour Planned As Fund-Raiser

The Valencia County Historical Society is hosting a fund-raising historic house and hotel tour Sunday.

Tours will be held at the Luna Mansion, home of Solomon Luna, the most powerful man at the New Mexico state Constitutional Convention of 1910; the Felipe Chavez Hacienda, the remodeled home of the Santa Fe Trail merchant known as "The Millionaire;" the Belen Hotel, famous railroad hotel newly remodeled by artists Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman; and the Belen Harvey House, one of the last Harvey Houses in the Southwest.

The Luna Mansion is near the intersection of NM 314 and Main Street in Los Lunas. There is a 1 p.m. tour that's only open to the first 35 people.

The Chavez Hacienda is west of North Main Street in Belen, behind the Luna Chevy auto dealership. Tour times are every half hour starting at 1:30, with the last at 3:30 p.m.

The Belen Hotel is near Becker Avenue and Second Street in Belen. Tour times are on the half hour, starting at 1 to 3:30 p.m.

The Harvey House is at the east end of Becker Avenue in Belen. Tour times are on the half hour beginning at 1, with the last at 3:30 p.m.

The historical society's annual awards ceremonies will be held at 4 p.m. at the Tierra del Sol Country Club in Rio Communities. Cost of the tour is \$12 to the public and \$10 to Historical or Genealogical Society members. Honorees this year are Eleanor M. Hawley, recipient of the Red Brick Award, and John S. Aragon, who will receive the Rio Abajo Award.

For more information, call 925-8620.

Residents Oppose Change in Zoning

from PAGE 1

build on the western edge of Cypress Gardens.

"This zone change would affect our most desirable view lots, which would be unmarketable if they had to oversee an asphalt plant," she said.

"We are requesting that the county enforce its own ordinances and that it declare that this property revert to its original zoning."

Owens said she has written at least four letters asking the county to state its intentions. She said she publicly requested to be put on the agenda for the next meeting on Monday. An agenda wasn't available by Wednesday.

"We will fight this zone change to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary," Owens said, adding that she plans to notify residents of the subdivision.

County Commissioner Charles Eaton on Wednesday said he didn't believe the issue had been placed on the agenda for Monday's meeting because information was still being gathered by the planning department.

Zoning enforcement officer Mike McCartney earlier in the week said the department was gathering evidence from the Cordova family, which he said showed the site has been continually used as a sand and gravel business and thus should not revert to its original zoning.

Eaton said he would rather see the site continue under its current status, which prohibits expansion or change of the use of the property.

"As I interpret it, a zone change to special purpose district would allow this small sand and gravel operation to expand possibly into an asphalt plant, and I don't want to see that happen for the people in that area," he said.

Los Lunas Fights To Save Hospital

from PAGE 1

munity program, which includes occupational, physical and speech therapy.

"I can tell you more than 90 percent of developmentally disabled folks are already with private providers," McCue said, adding that national studies show people with disabilities have better health and seem to enjoy a higher quality of life in smaller residential settings than they do in larger institutions.

But Charles Woodhouse, a retired University of New Mexico sociology professor and a parent, questioned whether a smaller community residence wouldn't be more restrictive for his daughter, now 48, who has lived at the center for almost 30 years.

"She carries her restrictions with her everywhere she goes. They cannot be lifted. The (center) has a marvelous swimming pool there. The campus allows the clients to be ambulatory without getting into trouble. What in the world do they know in Santa Fe? Have they known what it's like to take care of one of these clients? I wish the governor would intercede and leave this place open."

He said other states have taken as long as 20 years to develop community resources to provide the needed care for clients in institutions.

"They haven't taken this kind of precipitous, headlong dive into de-institutionalization anywhere."

Tom Tobey, developmental disabilities division director at the Health Department, said the number of clients living at the center has been growing smaller since 1991 when the state began comply-

ing with a federal court order that found conditions at the center didn't meet minimum federal standards.

"There were 18 deficiencies ... We didn't appeal the decision because we didn't think we could win."

She said the decision was one of many class-action lawsuits across the country that found putting people with developmental disabilities in an institution segregated them from the community and discriminated against them.

She said the New Mexico decision, known as the Jackson case, didn't order the Los Lunas center closed, but it did find that discharge planning was deficient. Once those problems began to be addressed, more clients were released to community living. As the population at the center began to shrink, operational funds also began to diminish because Medicaid and state funds follow the client. However, certain fixed expenses of running the institution remained, creating financial difficulties, she said.

"Economics was not the driving factor (in closing the center)," Tobey said. "But we still had to try to balance."

She said more providers have become available since the state began to turn to private and non-profit agencies to care for the center's clients. The state will still provide oversight and quality assurance programs. She said the transition process has also become more efficient during the last five years.

"We have already placed some of the most difficult clients in the community," she said, "some of the most medically fragile and some with multiple handicaps. We have learned from that."

POLICE REPORTS

LOS LUNAS

The Los Lunas Police Department reported:

- A VCR was reported stolen from a home in the 1100 block of Morris Court about 11:30 p.m. Oct. 8.
- Officers were called to the Los Lunas High School about 9:30 a.m. Oct. 9 regarding a fight that took place between two students. The students were cited and the case was referred to the Juvenile Probation Office.
- A model home in the 1500 block of Los Cerritos was reported burglarized and vandalized about 10:30 a.m. Oct. 9. A stereo and TV were stolen while a door and a light were damaged.
- Police were called to a home in the 700 block of Cortez about noon Oct. 9 regarding a window to a home being damaged.
- A Ford pickup was reported stolen from the Presbyterian Health Care Center about 7:30 p.m. Oct. 9.
- Officers were called to a home in Los Lunas about 9:30 p.m. Oct. 9 regarding a domestic dispute between a wife and husband. The man had locked himself in the home, and all attempts to get him to come out failed. There were firearms reported in the home. The

State Police Tactical Unit was called out and they negotiated with the man until he finally surrendered about 4:30 a.m. Oct. 10.

- A day planner with credit cards in it was reported stolen from a student at Los Lunas High School about 12:30 p.m. Oct. 10.
- Police were called to a home in the 200 block of Lopez Road about 5:30 p.m. Oct. 10 regarding a burglary that had occurred. Sixteen NFL towels, 10 video tapes and a Yamaha keyboard were stolen.
- A stereo was reported stolen from a home in the 300 block of Canal Boulevard about 9 p.m. Oct. 10.
- A vehicle ran a yield sign and cut off an officer at the Valencia Y about 11 p.m. Oct. 11. The officer turned on his emergency lights and pulled the vehicle over at the intersection of NM 47 and Valencia Road. The driver was unable to produce a driver's license when the officer asked him for one. The driver took the field sobriety tests and failed them. He was arrested for DWI and driving without a license and taken to the Los Lunas police station for booking. The driver posted bond and was let go.
- An officer was sent to the Allsup's on NM 314 to meet a Valencia County deputy about 4 p.m. Oct. 12

regarding a woman who was arrested on a warrant from Los Lunas. The woman was taken to the police department for booking.

- Officers saw a red motorcycle speeding about 1:30 a.m. Oct. 14. As they chased the motorcycle, the driver threw something into the street then stopped. The driver and passenger were searched for drugs or weapons. A bag of marijuana and a loaded .22-caliber handgun were found. The men were arrested and taken to the police department for booking, and then to the Valencia County Detention Center for holding.

BELEN

The Belen Police Department reported:

- During a traffic stop on Interstate 25 about 2:30 a.m. Oct. 8, an 18-year-old male was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and taken to the Belen police station.
- Police were called to the the Circle T Drive-In about 10 a.m. Oct. 8 regarding two windows that had been broken.
- While an officer was talking to a couple at the police station about 6 p.m. Oct. 8, a man drove up and threw something out the window at the couple, drove away, came back,

and started screaming at the couple. When the officer approached the vehicle the driver reached under the seat and pulled out a plastic case that later turned out to hold cassettes. The officer believed he was in danger and drew his revolver and had the driver exit the vehicle. The man was held for protective custody.

- A woman and man were arrested on an outstanding warrant and a charge of concealing identity during a traffic stop at the intersection of Main Street and Baca Street about 5 p.m. Oct. 9. They were taken to the Belen police station and the woman was released to the State Police and the man was placed in a holding cell.

VALENCIA COUNTY

The Valencia County Sheriff's Department reported:

- Deputies were called to the Giant station on Los Lunas regarding a possible drug overdose in the early morning of Oct. 8. The victim was taken to a hospital for evaluation.
- A trailer parked at a home on Gonzales in Belen was reported damaged Oct. 8, when someone apparently threw rocks at it, breaking a window and damaging the exterior.



JOURNAL SOUTH

BOSQUE FARMS * PERALTA * LOS LUNAS * JARALES * TOME * BELEN * ISLETA PUEBLO

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

Council Approves Rezoning Request

LOS LUNAS — The Village Council voted 3-1 last week to change the zoning of 6½ vacant acres at Rio Grande and Grant boulevards from residential to commercial.

Approval of the controversial rezoning request clears the way for Los Lunas-based developers Joe Gonzales and Orlando Montoya to build a restaurant, medical offices and a 40- to 60-room hotel.

Councilors Jeff Aragon, Charles Griego and Carlos Montoya voted to change the zoning, saying the development — because of a 10-foot landscape buffer — won't negatively affect nearby homeowners who oppose the project.

Councilor Henry Perea, who cast the lone vote in opposition, said the property was designated residential and it should stay that way. The council and Planning and Zoning Commission denied the request about seven months ago because there were "valid and justifiable reasons," he added.

Before the vote, residents repeated their concerns that putting businesses near their homes would lower property values and threaten their quality of life.

Resident Tony Romo said he'd like to take the matter to court. Other opponents said they would remember the decision when they vote in the next village election in March 1998.

Griego responded, "We have been threatened with litigation and an election. Do I make my decision based on what I think is proper or do I deal with intimidation?"

"This has become an us-versus-them issue. I think there is a form of elitism being promoted here. Los Lunas is not just a neighborhood on a hill."

Police Dept. Buys Four Patrol Cars

BELEN — The police department has purchased four police cars from Salt Lake City, bringing its patrol car total to 25.

"These vehicles would augment the standing police fleet exactly to the amount of officers we currently have," Belen police Chief Lawrence Romero said at a recent City Council meeting.

The cars, all 1995 models and still under warranty, will cost \$68,650, according to figures from Romero.

"What makes these vehicles desirable is that they are in excellent condition and three of them are fully outfitted police packages. The reason the fourth one is not outfitted is we have the equipment to outfit one vehicle," Romero said.

Village Growth Exceeds Estimates

LOS LUNAS — The village is maintaining its status as one of the state's fastest-growing communities.

It has grown to 9,233 residents, according to the latest estimate from community development director Art Mondragon.

The figure, which Mondragon gets by multiplying the number of building permits issued and 2.88, an average number of people per household, exceeds projections.

The Middle Rio Grande Council of Governments predicted the village population would be 8,741 by 2000.

The last official count in 1990 by the Census Bureau was 6,013 Los Lunas residents.

"It'll be interesting to see what the 2000 census comes up with," Mondragon said.

LOS LUNAS

Residents To Fight Rezoning

Change Might Allow Plant

By ARLEY SANCHEZ
Journal Staff Writer

Residents of Cypress Gardens, east of Los Lunas, might be gearing up for another fight to prevent an asphalt plant from coming in next door.

About a year and a half ago they were successful in turning back a

bid by Western Mobile Inc. of New Mexico to establish a plant on a site just west of the subdivision.

Now, Cyress Gardens developer Pat Owens fears that a zone change requested by the county Planning and Zoning Department might permit the asphalt plant.

Zoning representative Michelle Franklin said the department is attempting to match zoning with actual use of property. She said a sand and gravel company has been using a site just west of the subdivision for many years.

"Although that property has been

zoned rural residential, it has been used as a sand and gravel mining operation for 50 years," Franklin said.

The department would like to see the site zoned as a special purpose district, which is the proper zoning for a sand and gravel operation, she said.

"If we bring them in with the proper zoning, then the county can more closely monitor the activities that go with the zoning and thus have better control over that activity," she said.

However, Owens contends she

has proof that the sand and gravel operation was "grandfathered" in when the county's zoning was put in place in the late 1980s. Moreover, Owens said she has evidence to show that the operation ceased for six months, thus losing its protected status under the county's grandfather clause, which continued existing uses when the zoning ordinance was adopted.

"The zoning ordinance clearly states that when a particular use in effect under the grandfather clause has been discontinued for six months or more, then the county

must declare that the zoning will revert to the original zoning," which in this case is rural residential, she said.

If the county approves a zone change to special purpose district, an allowable use is an asphalt plant, Owens said.

"We are concerned that an asphalt plant may be requested by the owners of the property in the future if they get this special purpose zoning," Owens said.

Owens said the Cordova Ranch site abuts view lots that she plans to

See **RESIDENTS** on **PAGE 2**

On Sunday, Judy Chicago and Donald Woodman will open their home to friends and neighbors when the Belen Hotel is featured in a tour of historic buildings sponsored by the Valencia County Historical Society.



DON ARMSTRONG/FOR THE JOURNAL

RESTORED: Much of the Belen Hotel's rehabilitation effort went toward its masonry. The hotel was built in 1907 to serve rail travelers.

BELEN

HOTEL'S INCREDIBLE SAGA

Couple, Native Son Restore Building

By ARLEY SANCHEZ
Journal Staff Writer



DON ARMSTRONG/FOR THE JOURNAL

INTERIORS: Donald Woodman brought his expertise in architecture to hotel's renovation.

This little railroad town seems an unlikely place for internationally renowned artist Judy Chicago and her husband, photographer Donald Woodman, to settle, but the couple saw a chance to preserve a local treasure and make it their own.

Three years ago, the couple bought a deteriorating red brick hotel built in 1907 by German immigrant Bertha Rutz and transformed it into a warm, inviting home

and private studio.

They did it with the help of a much loved native son, Trinnie Mascareña, a master brickmason who was at first dubious about taking on such a massive project, but later adopted it as his life-defining work. Mascareña died of a heart attack in September 1995 before he could see his masterpiece finished.

On Sunday, Chicago and Woodman will open their home to friends and neighbors when the Belen Hotel is featured in a tour

See **BELEN** on **PAGE 2**

LOS LUNAS

Driver May Face Death in Crash Killing Illegals

Transport Law Allows Penalty

By SCOTT SANDLIN
Journal Staff Writer

A man driving a station wagon involved in a fatal accident near Los Lunas on Tuesday faces a possible death penalty on federal charges of transporting undocumented workers.

Congress amended the law dealing with transportation of undocu-

mented workers in 1994 to allow prosecutors to seek the death penalty if death results during immigrant smuggling or harboring, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles Barth.

Mario Rodriguez-Ramos was temporarily detained Wednesday after an initial presentment and faces a detention hearing today before U.S. Magistrate Richard Puglisi.

Prosecutors have asked the court that Rodriguez-Ramos be held without bond.

According to a criminal com-

plaint filed in U.S. District Court:

Rodriguez-Ramos was transporting eight workers in a white 1978 Ford station wagon when another vehicle struck the car from behind. The accident occurred about 6 a.m. Tuesday at milepost 201 on Interstate 25, about two miles south of the Los Lunas exit.

Two people in the station wagon were killed in the accident, and a third was seriously injured. Border Patrol agents are still trying to determine the identities of the victims.

Border Patrol agent Eldon McWhorter interviewed six of the

undocumented workers. They were then taken to the Albuquerque Border Patrol Station and remain at a federal halfway house.

Border Patrol agents also interviewed Rodriguez-Ramos, who said he had volunteered to drive the group to its destination and had arranged with another person to waive the normal fee for his services.

The undocumented workers told the Border Patrol they had arranged with a Juan Rodriguez in Mexico to be transported to Denver, Colo. The witnesses said they had paid \$200 each in advance; three

said they were each to pay \$600 more on arrival in Denver.

All said Rodriguez-Ramos guided them across the Rio Grande near El Paso, drove them north and was driving when the accident occurred.

A State Police spokeswoman said Wednesday the accident is still under investigation and she did not know if charges would be filed against the driver of the second vehicle, who was not hurt in the wreck.

An officer was quoted Tuesday as saying it was unclear if the station wagon's tail lights were working properly at the time of the collision.

FORWARDING ADDRESS

■ Who will operate Sen. Willie Chavez Park — the city, county or state?

WEATHER

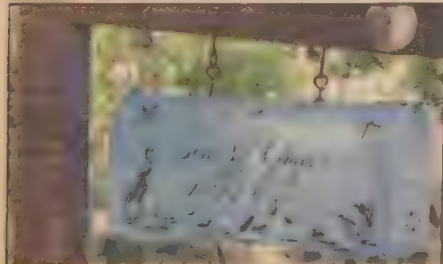
High 66
Low 36

Mostly sunny skies with winds out of the northeast at 10-20 miles per hour.



SPORTS

■ The Eagles and Tigers face fierce gridiron fights this weekend.



Valencia County News-Bulletin
August 10-11, 1996

NEIGHBORS

Section B

Home Sweet Hotel



The Belen Hotel in its new incarnation as a home for artists Donald Woodman and Judy Chicago.

Submitted Photo

A well-known artist and photographer have renovated the old Belen hotel, making it a home and studio while preserving its history.

BY SANDY BATTIN
NEWS-BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

Before New Mexico became a state, the Belen Hotel offered shelter to the traveler.

And now more modern pair of travelers, ones who have made their way here by way of California, Santa Fe and the Midwest, have alighted there. But, instead of staying just a night and then heading on, they have turned the hotel into a home.

The new owners, the new Belenites, are artist Judy Chicago and her husband, photographer Donald Woodman.

Woodman, who worked shoulder-to-shoulder with other craftspeople on the project, showed the newly completed work one recent evening.

A dark green double door set in the center of the Becker Street side of the building opens onto a wide staircase that leads to the residential area on the second story.

On the first floor, studios have

been set up as the artists' primary work space. The space to the east, with high ceilings and large light-filled windows, has been chosen by Chicago.

Currently, much of Chicago's major works are on display across the country. Perhaps her most

Library of American Women at Harvard-Radcliffe. Officials will be visiting Belen to pack the documents from Chicago, who is considered one of the nation's most significant artists of the day.

At the rear of the building, offices are being prepared for

Through the Flower, a non-profit corporation that supports Chicago's participatory projects.

On the western half of the ground floor, Woodman will set up his photography studio with two separate dark rooms, one of which will accommodate the development of some of his mural-size work.

The studios will not be open to the public, but serve as a home work space.

SANDY BATTIN/News-Bulletin Photo
Donald Woodman with one of the couple's five cats sits on the stairway leading to the second story.

famous piece, "The Dinner Party" is in Los Angeles while her Holocaust project will be displayed in a number of cities from Cleveland to New Orleans.

Her archives are being collected for donation to the Schlesinger

"We've always worked where we live," Woodman said. "This building has 7,000 square feet, but we're living in only about 1,000 square feet." Now they have space for the work they want to do.

Climb the stairs to a light-filled landing that's been painted a calming cream with sandstone-colored trim. The floors — still charmingly uneven from the press of time and many feet — have been stripped and whitewashed.

A huge square skylight in a boxy opening trimmed with wainscoting board washes the room in light. Woodman said it's original to the hotel. "It was probably something you ordered out of Sears-Roebuck," he said.

Paintings and photographs set against the creamy wall and the lack of furnishings — except for a pair of tall, working radiators transformed into art from their tiny platforms on either side of the stairs — give the look of a gallery.

Doors open onto the wide hallway every few yards. The historical trust insisted that at least the configuration of the rooms not be tampered with.

But Woodman said they were generous in not forcing them in details such as replacing the doors that had been in the building. "It still has the feel that they've been here 50 years with the nicks and dings and scratches," Woodman said.

Each is capped with a transom which helps circulate the air, heating and cooling the upper level. They're still replacing hardware on the transoms and finishing up other details.

The east-west configuration continues upstairs with each artist establishing an office at the front of



DONALD WOODMAN Photos
The skylight-capped landing on the second floor residential area also serves as a private gallery for the couple's artwork.



A robin-egg-blue stove has been Donald Woodman's for years. It's one of two his-and-her antique ranges in the hotel kitchen.

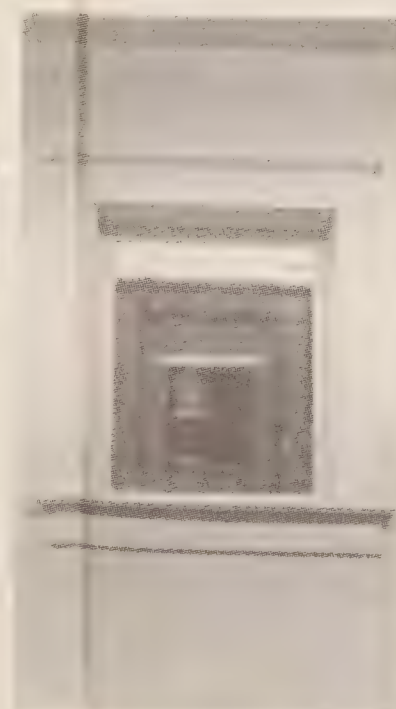
the building. Both are L-shaped, having been created from two of the small rooms Bertha Rutz, the original owner, once rented out.

The hotel never had a check-in area but Rutz greeted guests and assigned rooms from the corner area where Chicago's office now is.

They've included an exercise room, guest suite and dining room complete with a number of folk art pieces in bright colors.

Because they had to retain the original entrances to the rooms, they came up with creative solutions. The door to the former room 13 opens to the back of the kitchen cabinets.

The kitchen is in the center of the building, a modern place with two antique kitchen ranges — his and her cooking spaces, Woodman said.



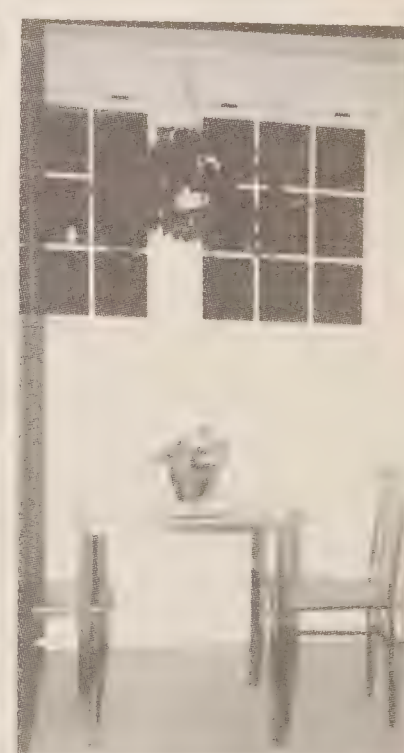
One window in Judy Chicago's studio frames another in a hotel across the street.

"We installed all sorts of things we never had — a dishwasher and a garbage disposal and an ice maker," he said, pointing to a counter with seating. "We wanted a place for people to sit down because when they come and visit they always spend time in the kitchen."

Only one original tub — a deep, clawfoot one — was found in the building. It's been restored and placed in Chicago's bathroom. Her husband's bathroom features a shower.

The bedroom is at the rear of the building with a walk-in closet designed especially for Chicago, who'd never had one before.

A tiny room off the bedroom was once used for cleaning the



A small room once used to wash chamber pots in the hotel has become a private nook off the bedroom.

chamber pots of the hotel before it had indoor plumbing. It made such a cozy, sun-splashed, private space that they added a small table and special family memorabilia.

Both say they love the city and its lifestyle. Neighbors are thrilled to see lights and life back in the old hotel.

Chicago and Woodman are content in their new antique home, ready for making memories there of their own — and living happily with its past.

Are there ghosts in this old building? "We haven't found any yet," Woodman said. "People say there are."



Judy Chicago displays some of the books she is placing on shelves on her office wall.

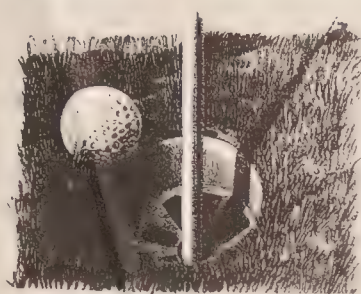


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THANK YOU



Belen. Hotels.

The Belen Hotel + Central Hotels were the first hotels ^{Established} in Belen. =
 Belen Hotel John Becker Built The Belen Hotel For Miss Bertha Rute. She was Mr Central Hotel Becker's Cook + House Keeper. She raised Her Brothers; Five children ^{in all}. Anita - Margaret Ben, Earl + Howard. Mr. + Mrs. T. Seery Managed Ran The Central Hotel.

Across The St Mrs. Kuhn ^{operated} Ran The Kuhn Hotel ^{including the} Restaurant. (Sp)
 The Kuhn Hotel burned in 1924 + ^{was} ~~she~~ rebuilt (her hotel) over by The Via Duct.

Scholle Hotel This rooming House was a Frame 2 story Building on 2nd + Talies which later Burned about 1922 1899

Santa Fe The Santa Fe Railroad Built this Building For Their Train-Crews, ^{for} over Night Stay. The Santa Fe use to put on Entertainment For Their Employees + ^{lunch} concerts

Conrad's Hendren Hotel On. South 1st was a Rooming House Run by Mrs. Conrad + later by The Russell Hendren's Family.

Craig's Rooming House

John Craig Had a Rooming House on. South 1st For Rail Road Employees

BHHC 2-1-37-9

HOTEL BELEN

Dill's
Rooming House

Fred Dill's Family Had a rooming ^{house} on
South Main.

Cap Castillo
Had a few Cap Castillo operated a Bar
Rooms To Rent. + Had a few Rooms For
Railroaders.

BHHC-2-1-37

Hotel BeLEN

